

Message Text

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21

ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8933

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR, MX, UN

SUBJECT: PRESIDENCY OF COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

REF A. MEXICO 3780; B. STATE 102893

1. AT HIS REQUEST, I CALLED ON AMBASSADOR CASTRO Y CASTRO JULY 16. THE BURDEN OF HIS PRESENTATION WAS TO INFORM ME THAT MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL PEDRO OJEDA PAULLADA REMAINED VERY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING THE NEXT CND PRESIDENCY FOR HIMSELF, THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WANTED THIS POSITION FOR MEXICO, THAT MEXICO'S RECORD IN COLLABORATING ON NARCOTICS WAS TOPS, AND THAT IT WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT WOULD BE DURING THE LAST YEAR OF ECHEVERRIA'S ADMINISTRATION.

2. CASTRO Y CASTRO THEN PRESENTED A RATHER LENGTHY AND COMPLEX ARGUMENT TO DEMONSTRATE THE JUSTNESS OF THE MEXICAN CLAIM. HE SAID THE "RULES OF THE CLUB" WERE NOT IMMUTABLE AS SOME THOUGHT; AND THAT FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
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BABAYAN (USSR) WAS HIMSELF A "PARACEDISTA," HAVING ARRIVED

DIRECTLY AT HIS OFFICE RATHER THAN HAVING ASCENDED IN RANK ORDER. I ASKED THAT CASTRO Y CASTRO SEND ME A MEMORANDUM ON THIS SUBJECT AND HE AGREED TO DO SO. HE THEN MENTIONED THAT THE MEXICANS HAD ALSO SPOKEN TO THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO SUGGEST THAT BABAYAN MIGHT REMAIN ANOTHER YEAR IN THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENCY, THUS GIVING MEXICO A CHANCE AT THE PRESIDENCY (WHICH IT WOULD HAVE HAD BY NATURAL SUCCESSION, IF NOT FOR THE ILLNESS THIS YEAR OF CASTRO Y CASTRO). I SUGGESTED THAT THE GOM ALSO SUBMIT A MEMORANDUM ON THIS SUBJECT TO THE RUSSIANS, AND TOLD CASTRO Y CASTRO THAT IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER FOR THE USG TO SUPPORT MEXICO IF THEY COULD CONVINCE THE RUSSIANS TO CONCEDE. HE SAID THE GOM SOUGHT NOT ONLY OUR SUPPORT BUT OUR ACTIVE CAMPAIGNING ON THEIR BEHALF. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT WE COULD NOT BE PUT INTO A CONFRONTATION WITH THE RUSSIANS, BUT WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE RIGHTNESS OF THE MEXICAN ARGUMENTS WOULD PREVAIL AND THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD AGREE TO KEEP BABAYAN ANOTHER YEAR IN THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENCY.

3. COMMENT: I WAS SURPRISED THAT, CONTRARY TO THE RELAXED ATTITUDE EVIDENT IN THE CONVERSATION REPORTED IN REF A, OJEDA PAULLADA ONCE AGAIN IS DETERMINED TO HAVE THE PRESIDENCY HIMSELF, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE AD PERSONUM NATURE OF THE OFFICE. THIS IMPULSE PROBABLY DOES COME FROM PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, WHO SEEMS INTENT ON GARNERING MAXIMUM INTERNATIONAL HONORS FOR MEXICO DURING THE REMAINDER OF HIS TERM IN OFFICE. IN ANY CASE, WE AWAIT RECEIPT OF THE GOM'S MEMORANDUM AND WILL FORWARD A TRANSLATION TO YOU POST HASTE. IF THE MEXICANS DO HAVE SUCCESS IN CONVINCING THE RUSSIANS, I HOPE WE CAN THEN BE IN A POSITION TO SUPPORT AND PERHAPS EVEN CAMPAIGN FOR THE MEXICAN CANDIDACY. WE ARE COMMITTING LARGE DIPLOMATIC, FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES TO OTHER ASPECTS OF THE US/GOM NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM, AND I WOULD HOPE WE CAN DO NO LESS IN SUPPORTING MEXICO IN THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS ARENA.
JOVA

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